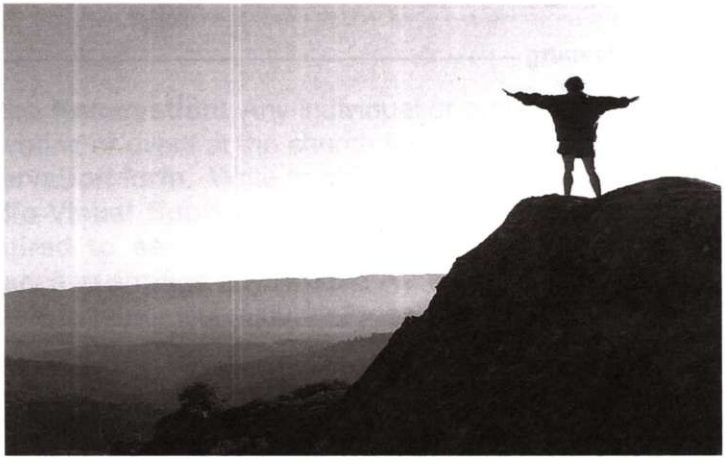
MCC
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

# Sunday, March 2, 2014
# Transfiguration Sunday

## *Sustaining the Mountaintop*



930 North 4th Street ♦ Allentown, PA 18102
610-709-8800 ♦ info@mcclv.org ♦ www.mcclv.org

**The Mission of MCCLV is to call all people to a holy life in Christ, changing lives and transforming the world**

## MCC LEHIGH VALLEY ORDER OF SERVICE

As you prepare for worship, take a few moments to reflect on the current state of your relationship with God. Is the communication channel completely open and free of any cross-traffic that might interfere with your ability to hear from God? What do you need to let go of, so that you may let God take control? Close your eyes, take a deep breath and let worship begin for you...

**Opening Song**

**Call to Worship**

**Invitation to Ministry**

**A Time of Praise (3 Songs)**

**Prayer Preparation Song**

**Prayer**

**Scripture Reading**

**Children's Blessing**

**Message**

**Song of Response**

**Offering**

**Offering Song**

**Communion**

**Communion Song**

**Prayer Over Gifts**

**Closing Song**

**Commission & Blessing**

**Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel**
**Office Hours:**
Monday: 8am-2pm
Tues-Thurs: 8am-1pm
Fri: 8am-12 noon

**Looking for low-cost space for you birthday party or family celebration?** Consider MCCLV's Fellowship Hall and kitchen for your gathering! Contact Administrative Assistant Paula Merkel at 610-709-8800 or e-mail office@mcclv.org for more information.

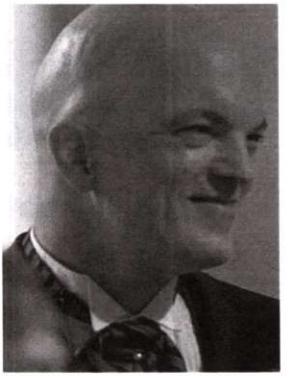
**Space Reservation:** Any individual or group wishing to schedule a meeting or event at the church **is required to fill out a space reservation form**. Write to office@mcclv.org more information.
**Audio-Visual Support:** Anyone planning an event at MCCLV **is required to see Music & Worship Director Brian Jones** in advance to arrange any needed AV support. The church may not be able to honor last minute requests.

**Sunday Bulletin & Announcements**

The deadline for all bulletin notices & announcements is **Wednesday at noon** – email to office@mcclv.org

**MCCLV IS ON FACEBOOK!**
Search **MCC Lehigh Valley.** All MCCLV related posts and tags will be approved through the office. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Robert "Robby" Schotter Leadership Appointment



Welcome to Robby Schotter as MCCLV's new Discipleship Ministry Coordinator! Robby has a Master's Degree in Bible from General Theological Seminary in New York. He will be coordinating Adult, Children and Youth Spiritual Formation programming, FORGE groups and other discipleship opportunities. Feel called to help Robby with this ministry? See him following worship or e-mail at robdean@ptd.net

MCCLV is collecting donations for food cards every **2nd Sunday of the month** after the worship service. Consider making a donation to help those in great need of reducing their grocery store bills. Questions? Contact Michaela Rivera (pictured at left) or e-mail her at rednegshart@aim.com

*We love because God first loved us*

*1 John 4:19*

**MCCLV IS ON YOUTUBE!**

To view and subscribe to our channel go to **www.youtube.com** and search **MCC LV**.

Bringing Christian Traditions Into Dialogue
**HERE AT MCCLV IN 2014!**

## The Convergence Project

Meets every Sunday morning at MCCLV through April 13 at 9:00 AM, facilitated by Robert Schotter, robdean@ptd.net

| | |
|---|---|
| **March 9** | Inhospitable Texts: Same Sex Practices in Hebrew Scripture Part II |
| **March 16** | Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part I |
| **March 23** | Jesus, Paul, Luke & Eunuchs: Same Sex Practices in Christian Scripture, Part II |
| **March 30** | Power and the Alternative Family Values of Jesus |
| **April 6** | Reading Scripture from the Margins |
| **April 13** | Finding Ourselves and Our Communities in Scripture |

**Board Training Day**
March 15, 2014
9:00am—1:00pm

## 20s30s

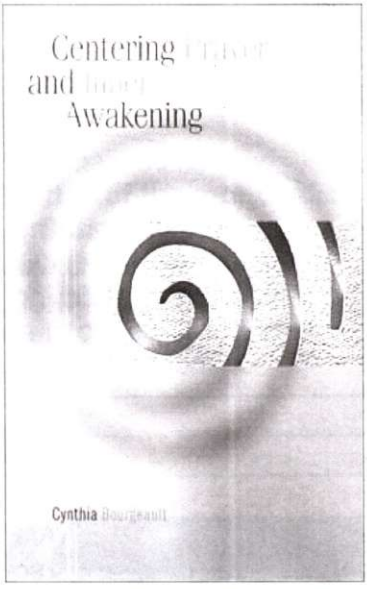
Are you in your 20s or 30s? Looking for some fun and fellowship? Would you like to connect with others in your age group? Join the fabulous 20s30s crew at their regular gatherings at 7pm on the first Friday of every month at MCCLV. It's a great place to meet others with common goals and kindred spiritual journeys.

For details contact Scott George
email: smgmcclv@gmail.com

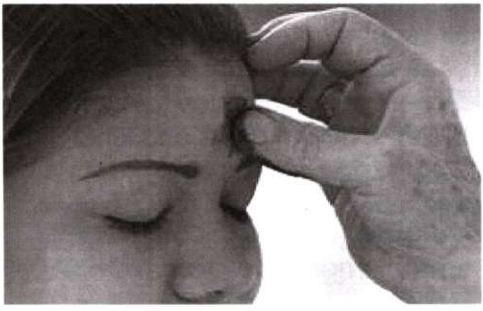
## HIV Positive Support Group

A HIV support group at MCCLV meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30pm. The focus will be on living a positive life with HIV. Thus, the group will be called HIV/Positive Living. This will be a chance to share and have candid discussions. This group will be limited to those with HIV, but there will be occasional guest speakers. If you are interested, please contact **Dean Hiatt** at robdean@ptd.net

## Are You Feeling Off-Center?




Is your life feeling a bit off-kilter or are you in need of a deeper way of prayer? In May, June and July MCCLV will offer Centering Prayer at 6:00PM on Wednesdays. It would be helpful (though not required) if participants would read Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault's book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" before May. Questions? See Rev. Goudy or e-mail her at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

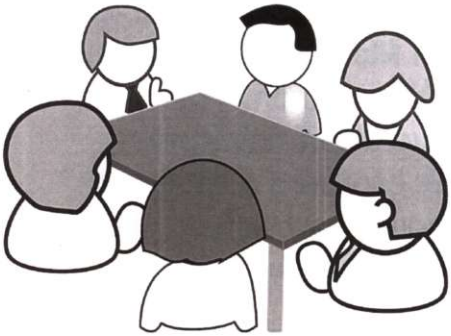


**Ash Wednesday Service will be held March 5 at MCCLV 7:00pm**

**MCCLV'S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY**

Open every Sunday at 12:00-1:00 PM to serve the community. The pantry is in need of donations. Drop off items in front of the pantry door. Thank you!

## How Could MCCLV Do Church Events Differently?



Over the past year, MCCLV's major church events have experienced either low or significantly lower attendance than previous years. While the church's events were excellently planned, marketed and executed, getting people to them has been a struggle. Do you want to help turn this around in order to glorify God more widely? Gather together on **Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00PM** for a conversation facilitated by Rev. Goudy. Those gathered will talk with God and one another about how to transform the way MCCLV plans events. The meeting is NOT called to judge, criticize or travel down the "via negativa." The purpose is to be forward-looking and brainstorm diverse approaches to building up the kingdom of God. Be a part of this positive and inspiring conversation.

**Retirees Gatherings**

Retirees meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Come and share some "golden" time with similarly blessed retirees!

For more information, contact
Karl Steiner, karl.steiner@mcclv.org
or Elaine Ely,
pastor_elaine@yahoo.com

# WELD AT MCCLV!

Interested in becoming a member of the church? Consider participating in the WELD process, a four-part membership course at MCCLV. Classes meet on **March 4, 11, 18 and 25th at 7:00 PM** here at the church. The purpose of WELD is to "weld" participants closer to God and to their brothers and sisters in Christ. Classes also include a basic introduction to discipleship and Metropolitan Community Churches.

There will be an informational session **TODAY immediately** following worship to hear more about the process.

See
**Emma Marrero**
for more
information!

Metropolitan Community Churches

TRANSFORMING OURSELVES AS WE TRANSFORM THE WORLD.

**PRESS RELEASE**

DATE: 24 February 2014

Contact: Jason O'Neill, MCC Communications, JasonONeill@MCCchurch.net, 1-508-246-8416

## Global Church Calls for Action after Uganda's "Jail the Gays" Bill Signed

**"Persecution and brutality are not cultural differences; these are crimes against humanity!"**

**The Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson is the moderator of the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), which has ministries in over 40 countries. Dr. Wilson led the first group of LGBT faith leaders to meet with White House staff in 1979. She served as a member of President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.**

The global leader of the world's largest church founded on acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people called for action after the 'Jail the Gays' bill was signed into law in Uganda.

"Uganda's leaders chose to add fuel to the fire of state-sponsored brutality and vigilante violence," said the Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, Moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches. "Although many claim religion as their reason for persecuting sexual minorities, hate is never a sign of life-giving faith. We urge all people of good faith and civic leaders to speak out and take action to stop this global crisis of persecution."

"As LGBTQ people in Uganda flee their homes to avoid being beaten or imprisoned, I call on religious and civic leaders to speak out against this vicious persecution. Persecution and brutality are not cultural differences; these are crimes against humanity!"

"U.S. Embassies do not make it easy to find asylum in the United States, so we are urging members and friends of Metropolitan Community Churches to provide financial support to the Refugee & Immigration Project of Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto. MCC Toronto works directly with the Canadian government, who matches dollar for dollar, to resettle LGBTQ people who are fleeing from persecution."

Learn more: MCC Toronto Refugee & Immigration Project Charter
(your MCCLV Board of Directors will be considering funding this project at its 3/9/14 Board Meeting)

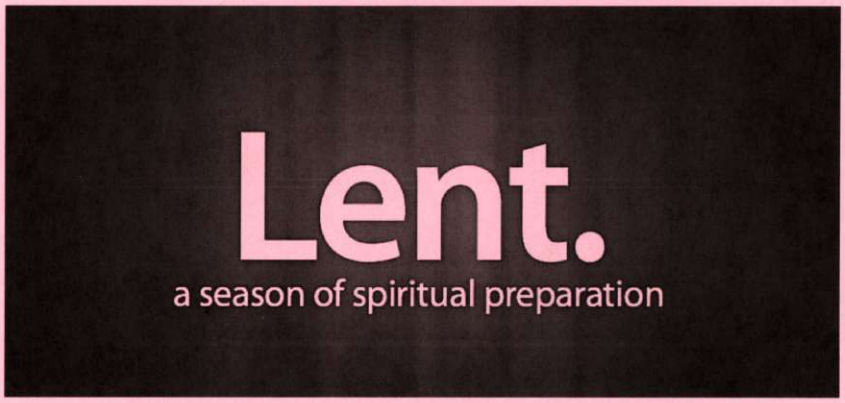
Give directly:
MCC Toronto "Canada Helps" Charity Profile
If you select Donate Now: Under Fund/Designation, choose number 4 - Refugee Sponsorship Fund.
If you select Donate Monthly: Designate "Refugee Sponsorship Fund" in the Message/Instructions section.

"The situation is urgent. These vicious campaigns must stop! It must stop in Uganda. It must stop in India. It must stop in Nigeria. It must stop in Russia. It must stop in Jamaica."

"Where are the outraged voices of faith? The silence is deafening."

# LENTEN MEDITATION
## for Ash Wednesday (5 March 2014)
## by Rev. Elder Dr. Mona West

### "The Pace and Place of the Journey"




(Photo: nunsopsummit.org)

The pace and place of transformation and healing, says Jesus, are in secret. Our quiet center is the place of transformation. It is that quiet space, that secret space, that empty centering point in the hearts of all believers where we wait upon God to speak to us, to see us in the silence, and to name us in a deeply intimate way.

Jesus warns us that we need to be clear about our motivation for spiritual practices. Some people engage in the giving up and taking on of spiritual disciplines to flaunt their willpower, or to appear holy, or to prove to God or themselves they can reliance.

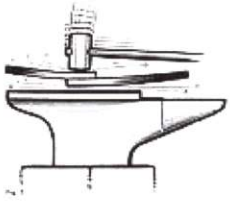
But when our motivation is to come before God in the secret places of our hearts, to clear a space for God to act through the practice of spiritual disciplines, then the reward is transformation in the secret places of our hearts.

For this forty-day period of Lent, all of us are invited to enter into covenant with God and one another, to be intentional about the journey we will make together. We covenant with God and one another because God is a God of covenant. God's covenant with us is redemption and transformation. God accomplishes in us what we cannot do for ourselves.

That is the essence of the message of Psalm 51. The psalmist cries out to God: "Create in me a clean heart and put a right spirit within me. You desire truth in my inward being, so teach me wisdom in the secret places of my heart." God does not require us to 'work on ourselves' until we are worthy. God doesn't look at how holy and pure we think we are because we pray and fast and tithe. The only thing God asks of us is a willing spirit and contrite heart.

Lent opens those secret heart places in each of us.

# FORGE



a stronger relationship with Christ and one another - Join a FORGE group! Groups meet every other week for one hour for worship, prayer, devotionals, testimonies, and fellowship. Although groups are spread out geographically (**SOUTH**, **EAST** and **WEST**) to make them easier to get to, you may attend whichever group you choose, even if it's not the one nearest you. **Contact group leaders to learn more!**

**FORGE Group West:** *Meets 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10am*
2nd Saturday: Scott George's home in Allentown
4th Saturday: Ron Smith's home in Allentown

**FORGE West Leaders:**
Scott George **smgmcclv@gmail.com**
Ron Smith **rsmith.mcclv@gmail.com**

**FORGE Group South:** *Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:30pm*
2nd Wednesday - Loreli Bauer's home in Perkasie
4th Wednesday - Elaine Ely's home in Quakertown

**FORGE South Leaders:**
Loreli Bauer **lorelibauer@aol.com**
Elaine Ely **pastor_elaine@yahoo.com**

**FORGE Group East** - *Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7pm at Barb Baus's home in Bethlehem*

**FORGE East Leader:**
Barb Baus **babaus@hotmail.com**

## A QUOTE FOR YOUR WEEK

**Hope Sees The Invisible**
**Feels The Intangible**
**And Achieves The Impossible**

**(Unknown)**

## Silent Witness Training

Sunday March 16, 2014
From 1:00pm—3:00pm
Fellowship Hall
Contact Barb Baus for more information
babaus@hotmail.com

## Save The Date

MCCLV's **30th Anniversary Banquet** has been scheduled for **May 31, 2014**.

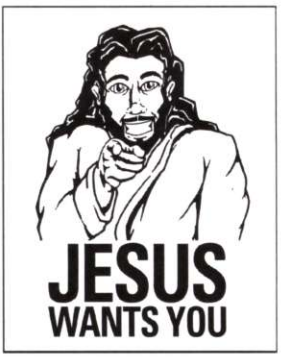
**Call to Artists:**

For upcoming summer art Exhibit/Event.
All artistic mediums welcome
Theme: Homelessness & The Mortgage Crisis
Donations collected will benefit The 6th Street Shelter

Contact Cindy Rodriguez
via e-mail at
cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

# Did You Know?

MCCLV completed this past year in an encouraging financial position, praise God! MCCLV ended 2013 with a positive balance in its General Fund. Thank you to all for your generous hearts!




**Are you willing to carry God's word to those in need?**

If so, MCCLV wants **YOU** to join **"The E-Team"** (Evangelism Team), for bar outreach and other social gatherings.

Contact Cindy Rodriguez for more information at: cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

"Therefore go and make disciples
of all nations."
(Matthew 28:19)

**FREE WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS**
**"PEOPLE OF FAITH" VIDEOS**

Be a part of MCCLV's 2014 Wednesday Night Lenten Video Series and **FREE Dinners**! The series surveys the history of Christianity in the United States & the weekly 30-minute video brings up interesting questions for reflection and discussion.

**March 12th, 7:00 PM** "From Monarchs to the Marketplace"
- Ministry Coordinators providing meal

**March 19th, 7:00 PM** "Many Mansions"
- Board of Directors providing meal

**March 26th, 7:00 PM** "Rebels with a Cause"
- Retirees providing meal

**April 2nd, 7:00 PM** "Challenges and Change"
- Choir providing meal

**April 9th, 7:00 PM** "Home Grown Saints"
- 20s30s providing meal

**April 16th, 7:00 PM** "The Future of Christianity"
- Worship Team providing meal

RSVP to **office@mcclv.org** or 610-709-8800. All ages are welcome. ***A great family activity***!

## Food Pantry

Contributions are always needed for MCCLV's Food Panty, bring in a donation whenever you are able. Volunteers are also needed for the Pantry.

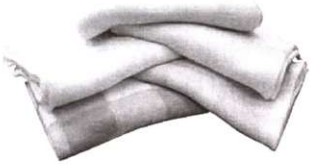
Contact Judy McNally via e-mail at:
njm0@lehigh.edu

## Early Morning Prayer

Consider praying with other MCCLV worshipers each Sunday from 8:00 - 8:45AM in MCCLV's Prayer Room (Rev. Goudy's former office). Prayer is powerful and those in attendance will be praising, thanking and petitioning our most powerful God during periods of personal and group prayer.

*"Truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:19-20.*

For more information, contact Karl Steiner - karl.steiner@mcclv.org.



**MCCLV and St. Andrews Episcopal Church** are co-sponsoring a fundraising raffle to benefit homeless men in the Lehigh Valley Raffle tickets will be sold during fellowship hour: 3 tickets for each $1.00 donation. Prizes consist of a free haircut by Ruben, a hair care basket, a Zumba lesson and others. Donation of these items will be accepted: blankets, men's socks – all sizes, and men's personal care items. Donations will be distributed during Friday evening dinners provided to these men on January 31, February 28 and March 28, 2014. Volunteers are needed for multiple areas. For more information please contact Saadia Negron or Virginia Maurer after worship.

## Environmental Day & Block Clean-up

Looking for Volunteers

**Sunday April 27, 2014**

for MCCLV's annual Block Clean-up for Earth Month.

Refreshments served after the Clean-up.

Contact Cindy at cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org

# UPCOMING WORSHIP AT MCCLV

**Ash Wednesday: March 5, 2014 @ 7:00pm**
Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-6
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: "**The Pursuit of Holiness I: First Mention of Holy**"

**1st Lent: March 9, 2014 @ 10:30am**
Scripture Readings: Leviticus 10:8-10 & Ezekiel 22:23-31
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness II: Not Common"**

**2nd Lent: March 16, 2014 @ 10:30am**
Scripture Reading: Nehemiah 8:5-12
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness III: Joy"**

**3rd Lent: March 23, 2014 @ 10:30am**
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
Preaching: Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness IV: "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

**4th Lent: March 30, 2014**
Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:3-10
Preaching Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Sermon Title: **"The Pursuit of Holiness V: A Highway Called Holy"**

**Today's Scripture Reading:**

**Matthew 17:1-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

**MCCLV's Weekly 2014 Budgeted for Giving is 3,916.98**

| Date | Attendance | Giving |
|---|---|---|
| 2/23/2014 | 103 | $2060.35 |
| 2/16/2014 | 74 | $934.84 |
| 2/9/2014 | 91 | $2,889.16 |
| 2/8/2014 | 102 | $670.50 |

Full financial reporting is provided at the Board meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month. All are welcome to attend. Additionally, reports may be viewed in the Board binder in the Library.

## MCCLV MINISTRY COORDINATORS

**Congregational Care & Health:**
**Karl Steiner** | karl.steiner@mcclv.org
20s30s Ministry, Faith Community Nurse, Hospitality, Prayer Team and Reconciliation & Affirmation Ministry

**Discipleship:**
**Robert Schotter | robdean@ptd.net**
Small Group Discipleship, Spiritual Growth Programming and Children & Youth Ministry

**Outreach & Justice:**
**Cynthia Rodriguez** | cynthia.rodriguez@mcclv.org
Evangelism, Free Market, Silent Witness, Food Bank and Messengers Art Ministry, Helping Hands Ministry

**Media & Marketing:**
**If interested in this position see Rev. Goudy**
Communications and Marketing Ministry

**Denominational Representatives:**
Lay Delegates Hope Hilby and Normana Schaaf

## MCCLV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Carpenter, Jim Harbst, Diana LaTorre, Emma Marrero, Lauren Sheldon and Ron Smith
**If you would like an item included on the Board agenda see any Board Member**

## MCCLV DEACONS

Loreli Bauer, Maricel Concepcion, Clarence Freed, Hope Hilby, Jessica Mitchell, Normana Schaaf, Karl Steiner and Carol Stevens

## MCCLV STAFF

**Pastor:** Elizabeth Goudy | rev.goudy@mcclv.org
**Music and Worship Director**: Brian Jones | brian.jones@mcclv.org
**Administrative Assistant**: Paula Merkel | office@mcclv.org